



Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A mouse ~~non-human-mammal~~ whose somatic and germ cells comprise a disrupted IEX-1 sequence, the disruption resulting in said mouse ~~mammal~~ having a level of blood pressure that is higher than the level observed in a control mouse ~~mammal~~ lacking said disruption, wherein said mouse is homozygous for said disrupted IEX-1 sequence and lacks expression of an IEX-1 polypeptide.
2. (Cancelled).
3. (Currently Amended) The mouse ~~non-human-mammal~~ of claim 1, wherein said mouse ~~mammal~~ has a level of blood pressure that is 5 mm of Hg higher than the level observed in a control mouse ~~mammal~~ lacking said disruption.
4. (Currently Amended) The mouse ~~non-human-mammal~~ of claim 1, wherein said mammal has a level of blood pressure that is 10 mm of Hg higher than the level observed in a control mouse ~~mammal~~ lacking said disruption.
5. (Currently Amended) The mouse ~~non-human-mammal~~ of claim 1, wherein said mammal has a level of blood pressure that is 20 mm of Hg higher than the level observed in a control mouse ~~mammal~~ lacking said disruption.
6. (Currently Amended) The mouse ~~non-human-mammal~~ of claim 1, wherein said mammal has a level of blood pressure that is 30 mm of Hg higher than the level observed in a control mouse ~~mammal~~ lacking said disruption.

7. (Currently Amended) A mouse ~~non-human-mammal~~ heterozygous for a disrupted IEX-1 sequence, wherein a mouse ~~mammal~~ homozygous for said disrupted IEX-1 sequence has a level of blood pressure that is higher than the level observed in a control mouse ~~mammal~~ not homozygous for said disrupted IEX-1 sequence and lacks expression of an IEX-1 polypeptide.

8. (Cancelled)